IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A service information providing apparatus comprising:

a service providing part configured to provide a service which a user utilizes,

wherein said service providing part further includes a service information providing part configured to provide information concerning the service, in response to a request from a user terminal, to the user terminal, the information including at least a port number of a transport layer protocol [[of]] corresponding to an end point of the service, an operation status of the service and an implementation type of the service and enabling the user to utilize the service when selected, and

wherein the service is configured to operate a hardware resource which performs image formation,

wherein said service information providing part includes a service information obtaining part obtaining the information concerning the service from a service information storing part storing the information concerning the service, and

wherein the request includes a search condition, and said service information providing part further includes a determining part based on the search condition whether or not the information concerning the service obtained by said service information obtaining part is information concerning the service required by the request.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Original): The service providing apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the request includes a search condition, and said service information providing part further

includes a searching part searching for information concerning the service from a service information storing part storing information concerning the service based on the search condition.

Claim 5 (Original): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said service information providing part includes a request analyzing part analyzing the request sent from the user terminal.

Claim 6 (Original): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said service information providing part includes a response creating part creating a response including information concerning the service utilized when the user selects the service.

Claim 7 (Original): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a service information storing part storing information concerning the service.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein

the information concerning the service stored in said service information storing part is written in at least two languages, ~~and~~

the request includes language indication information indicating a <u>preferred</u> language, and ~~of the information of the service, the information to be included in a response corresponding to the request~~

<u>the service information providing part provides at least a portion of the information concerning the service in the preferred language based on the language indication information</u>.

3

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information concerning the service ~~a response~~ corresponding to the request further includes at least one of a name of the service, a name of an apparatus providing the service, icon information concerning the service ~~as the information concerning the service~~.

Claim 10 (Original): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said service providing apparatus is an image forming apparatus forming an image.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A user terminal which is to be used by a user who utilizes a service provided by a service providing part, comprising:

a request creating part creating a request including a search condition concerning the service; and

a response receiving part receiving a response including information concerning the service, the information utilized when the user selects the service, the response corresponding to the request.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The user terminal as claimed in claim 11, further comprising an image generating part generating an image including the information of the service based on the response received by the response receiving part.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A service providing method in a service providing part providing a service which a user utilizes, comprising

providing information concerning the service utilized when the user selects the service, in response to a request from a user terminal to the user terminal, the information

including at least a port number of a transport layer protocol [[of]] corresponding to an end

point of the service, an operation status of the service and an implementation type of the

service and enabling the user to utilize the service when selected;

obtaining information concerning the service from a service information storing part

storing information concerning the service; and

determining based on a search condition whether or not the information concerning

the service obtained in the obtaining step is information concerning the service which is

required by the request,

wherein the request includes the search condition concerning the service, and

wherein the service is configured to operate a hardware resource which performs

image formation.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Original): The service providing method as claimed in claim 13, further

comprising the step of searching for the information concerning the service from a service

information storing part storing the information concerning the service based on a search

condition,

wherein the request includes the search condition concerning the service.

Claim 17 (Original): The service providing method as claimed in claim 13, further

comprising the step of analyzing a request sent from the user terminal.

Claim 18 (Original): The service providing method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of creating a response including the information concerning the service utilized when the user selects the service.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The service providing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the request includes language indication information indicating a preferred language ~~of the information of the service that is to be included in a response corresponding to the request,~~ and

the providing further provides at least a portion of the information concerning the service in the preferred language based on the language indication information.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The service providing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~a response~~ the information concerning the service corresponding to the request further includes at least one of a name of the service, a name of an apparatus providing the service, a type of the service, and icon information concerning the service ~~as information concerning the service~~.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A service utilizing method for utilizing a service provided by a service providing part, comprising the step of:

(a) creating a request including a search condition concerning the service; and

(b) receiving a response including information concerning the service utilized when the user selects the service, the response corresponding to the request.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The service utilizing method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising the step of generating an image including the information concerning the service, based on the response received in the step (b).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a service providing program for causing a computer to execute a process in a service providing part for providing a service which a user utilizes, said program comprising:

providing information concerning the service utilized when the user selects the service, in response to a request from a user terminal to the user terminal, the information including at least a port number of a transport layer protocol [[of]] corresponding to an end point of the service, an operation status of the service and an implementation type of the service and enabling the user to utilize the service when selected;

obtaining information concerning the service from a service information storing part storing information concerning the service; and

determining based on a search condition whether or not the information concerning the service obtained in the obtaining step is information concerning the service which is required by the request,

wherein the request includes the search condition concerning the service, and

wherein the service is configured to operate a hardware resource which performs image formation.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a service utilizing program for causing a computer to utilize a service provided by a service providing part, said program comprising the codes for:

(a) creating a request including a search condition concerning the service; and

(b) receiving a response including information concerning the service utilized when the user selects the service, the response corresponding to the request.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A service information providing apparatus for providing information concerning a service utilized when a user selects the service, said service information providing apparatus comprising a managing part managing first information concerning a plurality of service providing parts providing the service and second information concerning the service which is provided the plurality of service providing parts, respectively.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a storing part storing the first information and the second information.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising a registering part registering the first information and/or the second information to the storing part.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising an updating part updating the first information and the second information stored in the storing part.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising an operation state determining part determining based on the

first information concerning the plurality of service providing parts providing the service stored in the storing part whether or not each of the service providing parts operates.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising a service information obtaining part obtaining the second information concerning the service from the storing part.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 30, further comprising a determining part determining based on a search condition concerning the service included in a request sent from a user terminal whether or not the second information concerning the service obtained by the service information obtaining part is information concerning the service required in the request.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising a search part searching for the second information concerning the service from the storing part based on a search condition concerning the service included in a request sent from user terminal.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a response generating part generating a response including the second information concerning a plurality of the services, the second information utilized when the user selects a desired service from the plurality of the services.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising one or more the service providing parts.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn): The service information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the service information providing apparatus is an image forming apparatus for forming an image.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): A user terminal which a user uses to utilize a service provided by a service providing part, comprising:

a request generating part generating a request including a search condition concerning the service; and

a response receiving part receiving a response including information concerning the service, the information utilized when the user selects the service.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): The user terminal as claimed in claim 36, further comprising an image generating part generating an image including information concerning the service based on the response received by said response receiving part.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): A service information providing method for providing information concerning a service utilized when a user selects the service, said service information providing method comprising the step of managing first information concerning a plurality of service providing parts providing the service and second information concerning the service which is provided the plurality of service providing parts, respectively.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): The service information providing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of registering the first information and/or the second information to a storing part.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn): The service information providing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of updating the first information and the second information stored in a storing part.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn): The service information providing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of determining based on the first information concerning the plurality of service providing parts providing the service stored in a storing part whether or not each of the service providing parts operates.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn): The service information providing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of (a) obtaining the second information concerning the service from a storing part.

Claim 43 (Withdrawn): The service information providing method as claimed in claim 42, further comprising the step of determining based on a search condition concerning the service included in a request sent from a user terminal whether or not the second information concerning the service obtained by the step (a) is information concerning the service required in the request.

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): The service information providing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of searching for the second information concerning the service from a storing part based on a search condition concerning the service included in a request sent from user terminal.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The service information providing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of generating a response including the second information concerning a plurality of the services, the second information utilized when the user selects a desired service from the plurality of the services.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): A service utilizing method for utilizing a service provided by a service providing part, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a request including a search condition concerning the service; and

(b) receiving a response including information concerning the service, the information utilized when the user selects the service.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The service utilizing method as claimed in claim 46, further comprising the step of generating an image including information concerning the service based on the response received in said step (b).

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a service information providing program for causing a computer to provide information concerning a service utilized when a user selects the service, said program comprising the code for managing first information concerning a plurality of service providing parts providing the service and second information concerning the service which is provided the plurality of service providing parts, respectively.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a service utilizing program for causing a computer to utilize service provided by a service providing part, said program comprising the code for

(a) generating a request including a search condition concerning the service; and

(b) receiving a response including information concerning the service, the information utilized when the user selects the service.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A service information providing apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured to connect the service information providing apparatus to a network;

a service providing part configured to provide, to a user terminal via the network, a list of services available that correspond to a user request, the service providing part further including a service information providing part configured to provide, to the user terminal, information concerning each service in the list of services, the information including at least a port number of a transport layer protocol [[of]] corresponding to an end point of the service, an operation status of the service and an implementation type of the service and enabling the user to utilize the service when selected,

wherein each service corresponds to an operation of a hardware resource which performs image formation,

wherein said service information providing part includes a service information obtaining part obtaining the information concerning the service from a service information storing part storing the information concerning the service, and

wherein the request includes a search condition, and said service information providing part further includes a determining part based on the search condition whether or not the information concerning the service obtained by said service information obtaining part is information concerning the service required by the request.